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For Immediate Release
November 30, 2007

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Harrington Man Pleads Guilty to Federal Fraud and Identity Theft Charges

Bangor, Maine: United States Attorney Paula D. Silsby announced that **Abraham Gallardo Paredes (a/k/a Juan Lorenzo Hernandez Lopez)**, 48, of Harrington, Maine, pled guilty on November 29, 2007, in U.S. District Court in Bangor, Maine, to Aggravated Identity Theft. Paredes faces a sentence of 2 years and a fine of up to \$250,000, or both.

Court records reveal that Paredes used the birth certificate of an El Salvadoran named Juan Lorenzo Hernandez Lopez to obtain Temporary Protected Status from INS. Paredes then used his INS Employment Authorization documents to obtain a social security number. Paredes worked under the Juan Lorenzo Hernandez Lopez identity for various employers in Washington, County.

In June 2007, while executing an arrest warrant, Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents stopped the vehicle that Paredes was driving. He identified himself as Paredes and presented a Mexican driver's license and a visitor's visa from Mexico.

United States Attorney Silsby praised the investigation conducted by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Department of Homeland Security, Office of Fraud Detection and National Security Fraud Detection Unit.

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